

Curriculum Vita
David Beisecker
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Department of Philosophy
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
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Las Vegas, NV 89154
(702) 895-4038

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh (1989 - 1999)
Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1999
Dissertation: "Recipes for the Simple-minded: A Constructive Account of Original Intentionality" (Robert Brandom, advisor)
Washington University, St. Louis (1985-89)
B.A. *summa cum laude* in mathematics and philosophy, 1989
Senior Thesis: "From Folk Psychology to... Notional Belief?"
(excerpted in *Premise*, X, Spring 1989)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy of Psychology
Philosophy of Language

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Metaphysics
Epistemology
Philosophy of Science
Artificial Intelligence
Logic
History of Modern Philosophy
American Philosophy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Philosophy (with tenure), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2004- present)
Faculty Affiliate, Linguistic Studies Program
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (1999-2004)
Instructor of Philosophy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (1998-99)
Courses Taught:
Lower Division – Reasoning and Critical Thinking, Introduction to Philosophy
Upper Division – Metaphysics, Computers and Culture (The philosophy of Artificial Intelligence), Philosophy of Language, Philosophical Psychology, Contemporary Philosophy, 19th Century Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind, Theory of Knowledge
Teaching Fellow, University of Pittsburgh - 1991-94, 1996-98
Full Responsibility:
Introduction to Philosophical Problems, Elementary Symbolic Logic
Directed Recitation Sections:
Computers and Culture, Introduction to Philosophical Problems (writing practicums), History of Modern Philosophy (writing practicums), Symbolic Logic, Introduction to Philosophy (focus on critical thinking and applied ethics)
Grader:
Advanced Logic

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Dennett’s Overlooked Originality,” *Minds and Machines* (forthcoming)

“On the Origin of Conventional Meaning: A Pragmatist Alternative to Grice” *Mind & Language* (accepted, pending revisions).

“So Just What Is It About Mary? On Knowing “What it’s Like,”” *Southwest Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming volume 27 (2005).

“Phenomenal Consciousness, Sense Impressions, and the Logic of ‘What It’s Like’,” *Consciousness and Emotion* (special issue on agency, conscious choice and selective perception), edited by Ralph Ellis and Nakita Newton (Spring 2005), pp. 137-153.

“Functionalization and Folk-Psychology: How Mental States Earn Their Keep,” *Southwest Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming volume 26 (2004).

“Interpretation and First-Person Authority: Davidson on Self-Knowledge,” *Southwest Philosophy Review*, Volume 19:1 (January 2003), pp. 89-96.

“Some More Thoughts about Thought and Talk: Davidson and Fellows on Animal Belief,” *Philosophy*, Volume 77:299 (January 2002), pp. 115-124.

“Dennett and the Quest for Real Meaning: In defense of a ‘Myth’,” *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, Volume 9:1 (Spring-Summer 2002), pp. 11-18.

“There’s Something About Mary: Phenomenal Consciousness and its Attributions,” *Southwest Philosophy Review*, Volume 16:2 (July 2000), pp. 143-52.

“The Importance of Being Erroneous: Prospects for Animal Intentionality,” *Philosophical Topics*, Volume 27:1 (Spring 1999), pp. 281- 308.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO REFEREED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

“Intentionality Socialized: A Non-Gricean Account of Conventional Meaning,” *A Explicação da Interpretação Humana / The Explanation of Human Interpretation*, Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal): Edições Colibri (2004), pp. 291-299.

“Communication Without Intent: Toward a Non-Gricean Account of Conventional Meaning,” Robert Keating (ed.), *Proceedings of the 2002 Conference of the Association for Global Business and the International Academy of Linguistics, Behavioral, and Social Sciences*, Vol. 13 (Fall 2002), Madison, WI: Omnipress, pp. 8-14.

“Phenomenal Consciousness and the logic of ‘What it’s Like’” (audiotaped conference presentation), *Taped Proceedings of Toward a Science of Consciousness 2002* (sponsored by The Center for Consciousness Studies at the University of Arizona), Tape #TSC22-015: Phenomenal Concepts and the Explanatory Gap, Berkeley, CA: Conference Recording Service.

REVIEWS

Review Essay of Andrew Brook and Don Ross (eds.), *Daniel Dennett (Contemporary Philosophy in Focus)*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, November 2002, available at <<http://ndpr.icaap.org/content/archives/2002/11/beisecker=brook-ross.html>>.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

“World’s Minds Meet in Turkey” (Briefing on the XXIst World Congress of Philosophy), with R. Wilburn, *The Philosopher’s Magazine*, 24 (Winter 2003), pp. 11-12.

“Moscow Nights” (Briefing on the 2001 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference), with R. Wilburn and T. Jones, *The Philosophers’ Magazine*, 15 (Summer 2001), pp. 30-31.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Zombie’s Perspective on ‘What it’s Like’,” 59th annual meeting of the Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO, October 20-22, 2005. (Commentary by Brendan Lalor, University of Central Oklahoma).

“Intentionality without Evolution: The Meaning of Life and More,” 56th annual meeting of the *New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Society*, El Paso, TX, April 15-17, 2005.

“So Just What Is It About Mary? On Knowing ‘What it’s Like’,” 55th annual meeting of the *New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Society*, San Antonio, TX, March 26-28, 2004.

“Phenomenal Consciousness, Sense Impressions, and the Logic of ‘What it’s Like’,” Group Meeting of the *Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, Eastern Division Meeting of the *American Philosophical Association*, Washington DC, December 27-30, 2003.

“On the Function of ‘What it’s like’: A Semantic Solution to the Hard Problem?” 43rd Annual *Realia* Conference: Philosophical Issues in Contemporary Science, Digby, Nova Scotia, August 17th-22nd, 2003.

“Phenomenal Consciousness and the logic of ‘What it’s like’,” *XXIst World Congress of Philosophy*, Istanbul, Turkey, August 10-17, 2003. Abstract published in *Abstracts of the XXIst World Congress of Philosophy: Philosophy Facing World Problems*, Zeynep Davran (ed.), Ankara: Philosophical Society of Turkey, pp. 25-26.

“Interpretation and First-Person Authority: Davidson on Self-Knowledge,” *XXIst World Congress of Philosophy*, Istanbul, Turkey, August 10-17, 2003. Abstract published in *Abstracts of the XXIst World Congress of Philosophy: Philosophy Facing World Problems*, Zeynep Davran (ed.), Ankara: Philosophical Society of Turkey, p. 26.

“On the Function of ‘What it’s like’: A Semantic Solution to the Hard Problem?” Annual Meeting of the *Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness*, Memphis, TN, May 31st, 2003.

“Functionalization and Folk-Psychology: How Mental States Earn Their Keep,” 54th Annual Conference of the *New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Society*, Santa Fe, NM, April 11-12, 2003.

“Conforming Without Intent: Toward a Non-Gricean Account of the Origin of Conventional Meaning,” 2002 Annual Meeting of *International Academy of Linguistics, Behavior, and Social Sciences*, Las Vegas, NV, Nov. 21-24, 2002.

“Interpretation and First-Person Authority: Davidson on Self-Knowledge,” 64th annual meeting of the *Southwestern Philosophical Society*, Kansas City, MO, November 8-10, 2002. (Commentary by Sarah Sawyer, University of Kansas).

“Phenomenal Consciousness and the logic of ‘What it’s Like’,” *Toward a Science of Consciousness, V*, Tucson, AZ, April 8-12, 2002. Abstract Published in *Consciousness Research Abstracts 2002* by the *Journal of Consciousness Studies* (Abstract #4).

“Dennett and the Quest for Real Meaning,” 2001 meeting of the *Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World*,” Santa Fe, NM, July 23-27, 2001.

“Functionalization and Folk-Psychology: How mental states earn their keep,” 27th Annual Meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Cincinnati, OH, June 14-17, 2001. (Commentary by Stuart Silvers, Clemson University).

“Intentionality Socialized: A Non-Gricean Account of Conventional Meaning,” *Mind and Behavior III: The Explanation of Human Interpretation*, Lisbon, Portugal, May 24-27, 2001.

“Communication and Conventional Meaning: A non-conventional approach,” Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Minneapolis, MN, May 3, 2001. (Commentary by Cory Juhl, University of Texas at Austin). Abstract Published in the *Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association*, 74:4 (February, 2001).

“Dennett and the Quest for Real Meaning: In Defense of a ‘Myth’,” 52nd Northwest Conference on Philosophy, Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR, November 10-11, 2000. (Commentary by Mark Perlman, Western Oregon University)

“Conventional Meaning: A Non-Gricean Alternative,” 54th Annual Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Washburn University, Topeka, KS, October 12-14, 2000. (Commentary by Jim Forrester, University of Wyoming).

“Intentionality Without Evolution: The Meaning of Life and More,” 26th Annual Meeting of the *Society for Philosophy and Psychology*, Columbia University/Barnard College, New York, NY, June 15-18, 2000.

“Phenomenal Consciousness and its Attributions,” *Toward a Science of Consciousness, Tucson 2000*, Tucson, AZ, April 10-15, 2000. Abstract Published in *Consciousness Research Abstracts 2000* by the *Journal of Consciousness Studies* (Abstract #35).

“Knowing What It’s Like: Phenomenal Consciousness and its Attributions,” Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Albuquerque, NM, April 5-8, 2000. (Commentary by Barbara Hannon, University of New Mexico) Abstract published in the *Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association*, Vol. 73: 3 (January 2000).

“Non-Biological Intentionality: How to get over the meaning of life,” 51st Annual Pacific Northwest Conference on Philosophy, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, October 22, 1999. (Commentary by Phil Smith, George Fox University)

“Intentionality and Evolution: Beyond the Meaning of Life,” *Naturalism, Evolution, and Intentionality*, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, April 17, 1998. (Commentary by Moira Howe, University of Western Ontario).

“From Folk Psychology to Notional Belief?” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis State University, March 4, 1989.

INVITED CONFERENCE COMMENTARIES

“Extending Triangulation,” commentary on Delilah Caldwell’s “The Shared Value Thesis,” 67th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, Fayetteville, AR, November 11-13, 2005.

“(Re)Motivating Inferentialism,” commentary on Mark McCullagh’s “Motivating Inferentialism,” 66th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society, New Orleans, LA, November 12-14, 2004.

“Orthodoxy Defended...or... How to pan Goldstein,” commentary on Irwin Goldstein’s “An Argument Against Orthodox Neural Materialism,” 57th Annual Meeting of the Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY, September 25-27, 2003.

“LeBar’s Flaccidity: Is there cause for concern?” commentary on Mark LeBar’s “Rigidity and Response Dependence,” Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Organization, San Francisco, CA, March 26-30, 2003.

“Disquotation and First-person Authority,” commentary on Minh Nguyen’s “Davidson’s Four Explanations of First-person Authority,” 55th Annual Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, October 11-13, 2001.

“Locke on Twin-Earth,” commentary on Brian Casey’s “Locke Does Not Anticipate Putnam, Either,” 54th Annual Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Washburn University, Topeka, KS, October 12-14, 2000.

“The Context Principle Where?” commentary on Corey Washington’s “The Neurobiological Basis of Meaning,” 2000 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference on Truth and Meaning, Moscow, ID/Pullman, WA, March 24 - 26, 2000.

“Sawyer on Object-Dependent Thought,” commentary on Sarah Sawyer’s “The Epistemic Divide,” 61st Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Association, Houston, TX, November 12, 1999

“So, Saying I’m Irrational? I’m Saying, ‘So?’” commentary on David Alm’s “Non-instrumental Rationality Judgements About Action,” Mid-South Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, March 6, 1999.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“Zombies in Philosophy,” presentation for the UNLV Philosophy Club, Nov. 29, 2005.

Moderator, UNLV Book Symposium on Maurice Finocchiaro’s *Retrying Galileo*, Nov. 18, 2005

Panelist for Phi Sigma Tau skills workshop on Selecting and Applying to Graduate School. Nov. 15, 2005.

Panelist for *Phi Sigma Tau* skills workshop on Philosophical Writing and Research, Oct. 18, 2005.

“A Zombie’s Perspective on ‘What it’s Like’,” invited lecture to the CSU-Fresno Cognitive Science Group, Fresno, CA, April 26, 2005.

Panelist for *Phi Sigma Tau* skills workshop focused on writing philosophy papers, March 4, 2005.

“Experimental Psychology: A Philosophical Perspective,” UNLV department of psychology proseminar, October 22, 2004.

“Selecting, Preparing, and Applying for Graduate School,” skills workshop for the UNLV chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau*, February 20, 2004.

“The Role of Thought Experiments in Philosophical Argument,” skills workshop for the UNLV chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau*, September 18, 2003.

“Chalmers and the hard problem of consciousness,” invited seminar for the UNLV chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau*, February 3, 2003.

“Philosophical Psychology,” invited lecture for the UNLV chapter of *Psi Chi*, April 15, 2002.

“The Meaning of Life and More”, UNLV College of Liberal Arts Faculty Research Seminar, May 6, 1999.

“Intentionality and Evolution”, invited presentation, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, February 19, 1998.

“Dennett and the Quest for Real Meaning”, invited lecture, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, February 16, 1996.

PAPERS IN PREPARATION (* Under Review)

“First-Person Authority: A non-Unified Approach”

“A Zombie Talks About What it’s Like”

“Non-Linguistic Intentionality: Escaping Bermudez’ Triangle”

“Elvis as World Historic Individual”

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND OTHER RECOGNITION

While at UNLV

UNLV University Faculty Travel Grant (\$750), Fall 2005

UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award, 2005

UNLV Alumni Association Student Focused Faculty Award, February 2003

William Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching, UNLV College of Liberal Arts, 2002

Rita Deanin Abbey Teacher of the Year, UNLV College of Liberal Arts, 2001

UNLV Barrick Foundation Faculty Development Travel Grant (\$1000), Spring 2001

Nominee, Abbey Teacher of the Year, UNLV College of Liberal Arts, 1999, 2001

Nominee, Morris award for excellence in teaching, UNLV, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002

Recognized 5 times as an “outstanding professor” by departmental recipients of the Mitzi Hughes Alumni Association Scholarship

Course Reassignments, UNLV Center for Advanced Research, Spring 2000, Fall 2001

Graduate

National Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1989-1991

National Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 1994-5

Alan Ross Anderson Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1992

Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 1993, 1996-8

Teaching Assistantship, University of Pittsburgh, 1992

Mellon Language Study Grant (for language training in Germany), summer 1990

University of Pittsburgh Summer Research Grants, 1997, 1998

Undergraduate

Arthur Holly Compton Fellowship, Washington University, 1985-89

Nishi Luthra Prize in Philosophy, 1989

Phi Beta Kappa, 1988

Neurather Library Prize, 1989

STUDENT ADVISING

Undergraduate:

Faculty Sponsor, University College Capstone Project:

Louis Amundson, *The Decline of Poetry*, Spring 2005

Undergraduate Honors Projects:

John Nowakowski, *Folk Psychology and the Dynamic Systems Approach to Cognition* (philosophy, 1999)

Graduate (*graduate college representative):

Nelse Ostlund, *The Desire for Socio-cultural Similarity in a Mate* (psychology M.A., Spring 2003; Ph.D., ongoing)*

Kim Wieberg, *The Impact of Dynamic Changes in Talker Amplitude on Recognition Memory for Words* (psychology M.A., 2004)*
Kim (Wieberg) Cramer, *Neuropharmacology of MDMA*, (Psychology Dept. 3rd Year qualifying Paper, 2005)*
Daniel Griswold, *Cayley Maps* (mathematics M.S., 2003)*
Marshall Smith, *A Sociological Perspective on Video-game Playing* (sociology M.A., 2004)*
Cecilea Mun, *Policy Analysis: Evaluating Theories of the Hermeneutic Critique* (ethics and policy studies M.A., 2005)
CJ Senif, *Afro-American Onamatics* (anthropology M.A., ongoing)*
Edward Crossman, *Gambling Behavior and the Five Factor Model of Personality* (psychology M.A., ongoing)*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Regional/National:

Executive Committee, Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference (November 2000- present).
Program Chair, 2006 Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Washburn University.
Local Organizing Chair, 2002 Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference.
Local Organizing Committee, Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (for the 2001 annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada).

Manuscript Refereeing:

Oxford University Press (2005, text proposal)
Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy (2004, article submission)
Southwestern Philosophical Society/*Southwest Philosophy Review* (2004-5, 14 article submissions)
Longman Publishers (2004, textbook proposal)
New Mexico/West Texas Philosophy Conference/*Southwest Philosophical Studies* (2004, 5 article submissions; 2005, 5 article submissions)
Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference (2001-4, numerous paper submissions)
Philosophy in the Contemporary World (2001, article submission)

External Reviewer:

University of Wyoming (2005)

Conference Session Chairs:

2004 Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference (Fort Hays State University, Hays, KS, October 13, 2004).
2003 Biennial Meeting of the Hume Society Meeting (Las Vegas, NV, August 2, 2003).
2001 Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference (Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, October 11-13, 2001).
2001 Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference on free will and determinism (Moscow, ID/Pullman WA, April 27-29, 2001).
2001 Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (Las Vegas, NV, March 13, 2001).
1997 Central Division of the American Philosophical Association, (Pittsburgh, PA, April 26, 1997).

UNLV Department of Philosophy:

Interim Chair, July-August 2000
Coordinator for the philosophy minor, 1999
Chapter Founder and Adviser, *Phi Sigma Tau- Nevada Alpha Chapter* (2002-2005)
Advising Center Liaison (2003-2005)
Secretary for department meetings (2000-2005)
New Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cynthia Townley (2001-2003), Dr. Thomas Osborne (2002-3), Dr. Ian Dove (2003-present)

Departmental Committee Memberships (* indicates chair):

Promotion and Tenure (2004/5*, 2005/6*)
Search (6 times: 1998/9, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002, 2003/4*, 2005/6*)
Visiting Asst. Professor Search (2 times: 2001, 2002)
Colloquium (1998-2001)
Student Awards (1998-2003; chair 2001-03)
Catalog (2001-2002*)
Conference (2001-03*)
Assessment (2003-present*)
Research (1998-99)
Website (2005-6)

UNLV College of Liberal Arts:

Committee Memberships: Course and Curriculum (2000-2), Morris Teaching Award (2004-present)

UNLV Faculty Senate:

Faculty Senate Representative (2003-present)
Senior Senator, College of Liberal Arts (2005-6)
Senate Representative to Program Review Committee (appointed fall 2003)
Senate Representative to the Graduate College New Program Committee (appointed fall 2004)
Committee Memberships: Academic Standards (2000-2), Academic Ethics (1999-2001), Curriculum (2000-3), Program Review (2003-present) [subcommittee for internal review of BS in Counseling, 2004-5, subcommittee for BS in Environmental Science, 2005-6]

Other Campus Service:

Faculty Marshall, UNLV Commencement Ceremony (Spring 2002, Winter 2002, 2004)
Judge and Chair for platform presentations in humanities and business
2nd Annual UNLV Graduate Research Forum, March 24, 2001
4th Annual UNLV Graduate Research Forum, April 5, 2003
Faculty Advisor, UNLV Ultimate Frisbee Club (2002-present)

Community Service

Member, Goodsprings Volunteer Fire Department (June 2005 -)
Site Inventory Chair, Goodsprings Historical Society (2005 -)
Member, HIV Prevention Community Planning Group of Southern Nevada (2000-4)
Grant Reviewer, Clark County Health District, Office of AIDS/HIV Prevention (2002, 2003)
Mentor, 2002 Clark County Summer Business Institute
Local Admissions Representative, Washington University Alumni and Parents Admissions Program (1999-2003)

Professional Affiliations:

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division
Phi Sigma Tau
Society for Philosophy and Psychology
Southwestern Philosophical Society
Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World
New Mexico/West Texas Philosophical Society
Southwestern Philosophical Society

PERSONAL

Born 8 July, 1967; Madison, WI
Married (Monica), two cats and two dogs
Personal Interests: Ultimate Frisbee, Elvis, Hiking, and the Care and Upbringing of my three cats (Dilemma, Elbert Ickey, and Idgey) and two dogs (Grue and Siggy)

